

Weicker Quits Korean Probe, Raps 'Evasiveness' of Leaders

Associated Press

Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) resigned yesterday from the Senate's investigation of the South Korean influence-buying scandal, accusing leaders of the probe of "a maze of parliamentary evasiveness."

In a letter, Weicker accused Senate Ethics Committee Chairman Adlai E. Stevenson (D-Ill.) of making impossible "a complete, uncompromising investigation."

Weicker accused Stevenson and Committee Vice Chairman Harrison H. Schmitt (R-N.M.) of initially rebuffing his attempts to get the investigation going and more recently shunting aside his request for testimony by Henry A. Kissinger and other former Nixon administration officials.

"You and Sen. Schmitt have made the search for the truth a maze of parliamentary evasiveness and unilateral rulings that would do credit to the most accomplished bureaucrat," Weicker wrote.

Stevenson told reporters that the former Nixon administration officials will testify to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

He said the Ethics and Intelligence committees agreed Monday to let Weicker participate in Korean investigations by both committees but that Weicker did not show up to accept.

"When both committees have completed their work, it will be time to judge whether they have conducted complete and uncompromising investigations," Stevenson said.

Weicker accused the Ethics Committee leaders of rebuffing his requests for an investigation of alleged South Korean influence-buying until a document indicating Senate involvement was about to become public.

Weicker's staff said he was referring to a purported report to The South Korea Central Intelligence Agency in 1972 saying Tongsun Park was making influence payments to 11 senators, 30 House members and two officials in the Nixon administration.

Park, a Washington-based rice dealer, has since told investigators that this and other accounts of his activities were exaggerated.

The Ethics Committee says it has

found that Park paid a total of \$21,000 to eight present and past senators, including one who broke the law by not reporting the contribution.

Stevenson refused to say who broke the law but strongly indicated at news conferences it was a senator who recently died.

Weicker's aides said he sought testimony by Kissinger, former president Nixon's national security adviser and secretary of state; former defense secretary Melvin R. Laird, former attorney general Richard Kleindienst and other Nixon administration figures.

A House International Relations subcommittee has disclosed that the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, sent memos to notify Kissinger and then-Attorney General John N. Mitchell in 1971 that lobbying of U. S. congressmen had been discussed in Korean President Park Chung Hee's mansion.

Kissinger is to testify to that panel next week.

Mitchell already has testified he never saw the memo and Kissinger has said he did not know of Korean payments until much later.

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